

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1-19 with claims 15-18 being withdrawn from consideration.

Applicants hereby affirm the election of Group I containing claims 1-14 and 19.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

W/D
With regard to the rejection of claim 19 under 35 USC 101 and 112, it should firstly be noted that claim 19 is an article claim and thus recitation of steps is unnecessary. Thus, claim 19 as above amended is definite and in compliance with 35 USC 101 and 112.

Turning to Official Action paragraph 9, the claims have been rejected as indefinite in the terms "characterized" and "relatively smaller" and these terms are no longer recited.

The rejection of claims 1-14 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over March et al. (US 5,937,521) is respectfully traversed.

int use
The March et al. reference is [very different in technical field] from the present invention, and therefore, considered to be non-pertinent prior art. In this regard, the present invention is a plastics-covered metal plate [used for a car body] in which one surface or both surfaces of the metal plate are covered by a laminate of at least two kinds of plastic films whose elongation rates are different from each other.

March et al., on the other hand, relate to a method of making elongated plastic members such as a reinforced plastic marine piling, telephone pole and the like, and are, therefore, clearly distinguished from the present invention from the technical viewpoint. - 515

As shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 of March et al., the elongated plastic members of March et al. basically have a structure wherein the periphery of plastic core 12, which has central longitudinal axis 14, is coated with plastic shell 18 in which rigid reinforcing bar 20 is embedded. Hence, the invention of March et al. is essentially different from the plastics-covered metal plate used for a car body of the present invention.

The invention of March et al. has [nothing to do with the technique of covering a metal plate with plastic film.]

March et al. teach or suggest nothing of covering a metal plate with a plastic film. It goes without saying that March et al. disclose nothing about covering a metal plate with a laminate of at least two different kinds of plastic films whose elongation rates are different from each other.

The rejection states, "March discloses steel is coated with the well-known coatings (column 5, lines 44-45). . . ." March, column 5, lines 44-45, however, only teaches that "steel rebar" is usable as rigid reinforcing bar. In March et al., the steel bar is to be embedded, as a reinforcing bar, in plastic shell. March et al. teach or suggest nothing of covering a steel bar with at least two kinds of plastic layers whose elongation rates are different from each other.


It is evident, therefore, that the present invention is unobvious and patentable over March et al.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows.

1. (Amended) A plastics-covered metal plate for car body [characterized by being made by covering] in which one surface or both surfaces of the metal plate [with] are covered by a laminate of at least two kinds of [plastics layers] plastic films whose [rate of] elongation [is] rates are different from each other.

2. (Amended) A plastics-covered metal plate for car body as set forth in Claim 1 [which is covered with a double-layered plastics layer made by laminating a plastics layer (A) with relatively smaller rate of elongation at the upper layer side farther from the metal plate and a plastics layer (B) with larger rate of elongation at the lower layer side nearer to the metal plate] in which the laminate comprises a plastic film (A) with smaller elongation rate at the upper side farther from the metal plate and a plastic film (B) with larger elongation rate at the lower side nearer to the metal plate.

3. (Amended) [A] The plastics-covered metal plate [for car body] set forth in Claim 2 wherein the [rate of] elongation rate of the [plastics layer] plastic film (B) is larger than the [rate of] elongation rate of the [plastics layer] plastic film (A) by at least 10%.

4. (Amended) [A] The plastics-covered metal plate [for car body] set forth in Claim 2 wherein the [rate of] elongation rate of the [plastics layer] plastic film (B) is larger than the [rate of] elongation rate of the plastic [layer] film (A) by at least 50-200%.

5. (Amended) [A] The plastics-covered metal plate [for car body] set forth in Claim 2 wherein the [rate of] elongation rate of the [plastics layer] plastic film (A) is 1-100%.

6. (Amended) [A] The plastics-covered metal plate [for car body] set forth in Claim 2 wherein the [rate of] elongation rate of the [plastics layer] plastic film (A) is 5-70%.

7. (Amended) [A] The plastics-covered metal plate [for car body] set forth in Claim 2 wherein the oxygen permeability of the [plastics layer] plastic film (A) in its single coating film form at 25°C is less than $10^{-11} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{cm} / \text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{sec} \cdot \text{cmHg}$.

8. (Amended) [A] The plastics-covered metal plate [for car body] set forth in Claim 2 wherein the oxygen permeability of the [plastics layer] plastic film (A) in its single coating film form at 25°C is less than $10^{-12} \text{ cm}^3 \cdot \text{cm} / \text{cm}^2 \cdot \text{sec} \cdot \text{cmHg}$.

9. (Amended) [A] The plastics-covered metal plate [for car body] set forth in Claim 2 wherein a plastic [layer] film (A) is further laminated at the lower [layer of the plastics layer] plastic film (B) (at the nearer side to the metal plate).

10. (Amended) [A] The plastics-covered metal plate [for car body] set forth in Claim 1 wherein the [plastics layer] plastic film is formed of a thermoplastic resin selected from the group consisting of polyolefin resin, polyester resin, polycarbonate resin, epoxy resin, vinyl acetate resin, vinyl chloride resin, fluorine-containing resin, polyvinyl acetal resin, polyvinyl alcohol resin, polyamide resin, polystyrene resin, acrylic resin, polyurethane resin, phenolic resin, polyether resin, and cellulose type resin.

11. (Amended) [A] The plastics-covered metal plate [for car body] set forth in Claim 1 wherein the thickness of each [layer of the plastics layer] plastic film is in the range of 1-100 μm .

12. (Amended) [A] The plastics-covered metal plate [for car body] set forth in Claim 1 wherein the thickness of each [layer of the plastics layer] plastic film is in the range of 5-50 μm .

13. (Amended) [A] The plastics-covered metal plate [for car body] set forth in Claim 1 wherein the thickness of each [layer of the plastics layer] plastic film is in the range of 5-120 μm .

14. (Amended) [A] The plastics-covered metal plate [for car body] set forth in Claim 1 wherein an adhesive exists between a [plastics layer] plastic film and the metal plate and between

each other [plastics layer] plastic film.

19. (Amended) A car body [made by using] comprising partly or totally the plastics-covered metal plate set forth in Claim 1.